Operation Blackboard Scheme in Gujarat

673. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present status of Operation Blackboard Scheme in Gujarat;

(b) whether any shortcomings have been noticed in implementation of the scheme in the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken to remove these shortcomings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA): (a) to (d) Funds were released for procurement of Teaching Learning Equipment (TLE) for all the eligible 12,393 primary schools in Gujarat. In all, 2374 posts of primary teachers were sanctioned to convert single teacher primary schools to dual teacher schools.

Under the expanded Operation Blackboard Scheme funds have been released for procurement of Teaching Learning Equipment for 16279 upper primary schools in the State.

A total amount of Rs. 9682.98 lakhs has so far been released to Govt. of Gujarat for the implementation of Operation Blackboard Scheme, out of which State Govt. has utilised Rs. 9654.50 lakhs.

There has been some delay in the utilisation of funds released for TLE. However, the State has now utilised 99.70% of the funds released.

Land for new campus of SPA

674. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi purchased a plot of 20 acres of land near JNU campus from DDA in 1988, for establishment of the new campus within a period of two years;